

Spiritual Growth Lessons from Christian Ambassadors

Lesson 64 – *Be Faithful and True to Jesus*

By Sharon K. Griffie

Many people take years and years to come to the realization that Jesus Christ is Lord, not they themselves. Many try to be lord of their own life, only to discover the hard way that nothing ever comes out right. However, those who take the step of surrendering their lives to Jesus, ceasing the struggle against Him, find new power, strength, and healing in their souls. It is when we stop trying to remake ourselves and let God help us, that our journey with Him becomes sweet. Life becomes worth living!

The Apostle John, a devout and faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, shares an amazing vision of Jesus in the Book of Revelation, revealing the victory we can secure through Him.

Revelation 19:11-13 (KJV) – *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God**.* [bold emphasis mine]

Gazing into heaven John saw Jesus seated on a white horse, returning to the earth in all His glory. The white horse is a sign of His coming triumph. After a battle, it was customary for a triumphant Roman general to parade on the Via Sacra, a main thoroughfare of Rome, with evidences of his victory. The proofs of victory were the booty, as well as captives. The white horse in John's vision is a symbol of Christ's triumph over the forces of evil in the world. The *captives* are those, whom Christ has won to His side, those who follow his lead and share in his victory over evil.

The Apostle Paul thoroughly understood the importance of this victory over evil. As he points out in II Corinthians 2:14, there is much to

celebrate. These *captives* are by Christ's side of their own choosing. They are totally loyal to Christ and ready to serve Him.

II Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) – *But thanks be to God, who always leads us as **captives in Christ's triumphal procession** and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.* [bold emphasis mine]

The One sitting on the white horse, who always leads us, is called "*faithful and true*". These are the outstanding attributes of Jesus. Jesus is faithful. He can absolutely be trusted. He is true. He brings the truth to us and there never is any falsehood in anything He says. Jesus stands out in sharp contrast to the forces of "*anti-Christ*", whose sole aim is to try to win us over to his side with his empty promises and lies.

Jesus keeps His Word. His word is His bond. Those who spread the aroma of the knowledge of Christ bear the same attributes. Jesus is truly the embodiment or example of what He expects of each of us. Jesus is faithful and true to us; likewise we must be faithful and true to Jesus. Are we faithful and true to Jesus? What is involved with being faithful and true?

Let us examine faith. When we examine faith from God's viewpoint, faith is about getting *God's will done* on earth, not our will. If we were to think of ourselves, the way Paul describes us, as "*captives*" in *Christ's triumphal procession*, with Jesus leading the way, our prayers and actions would clearly reflect His will.

Matthew 6:9-10 (KJV) – *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Our confession and follow-through would be, "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*".

To be honest with you, if we are not interested in the *will of God* being done, we dishonor our Heavenly Father and the purpose of faith. The whole operation of faith is about our connection with God and our desire to be obedient to Him.

Beware of Satan's lies. Brothers and sisters we must never forget that the devil is out there plotting and scheming to derail God's will on earth. How does he do it? He tries to get us to look at *our* faith. He wants us to put our faith, in our faith, to weaken us and keep us operating in the flesh. His desire is that we ignore Biblical, godly principles, so we will get frustrated and set out to make things happen in our own strength.

Satan wants *us* to muster up *our* faith attempting to get God's supernatural attention. People tend to think of God as being the great and powerful Creator of the universe who will do as we wish, if we can just approach Him with enough faith. Thinking *we* know what is best, we make our own plans, present them to God and expect God to back them, to do *our will*.

What we are doing in reality is testing God's love, and if He does not jump to our requests, instantly fixing all of our problems, the way we want them fixed, we accuse Him of not caring for us. Now we are mad at ourselves and we are mad at God. The devil is actually the one we should be mad at, because he is sitting on the sidelines celebrating, because we once again fell for his lies.

Jesus, the living Word, source of our faith.

Jesus commands us to put our faith *in Him*, the object of our faith. When we put our faith in Him, the source of our faith is the *Word of God*. It is there that you will find all the godly principles filled with the life of God. The Word became flesh and lived among us. Truth became flesh and lived among us. Are we looking to Jesus, the Word, to find the truth we need to live honestly and honorably before Him? Are we purposely avoiding the daily distractions around us?

Hebrews 12:2a (Amplified Bible) – Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving

the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection].

Jesus is our leader. He is our champion. He will work with (lead) anyone who knows that *they* do not have the final answer. In other words, Jesus will work with (lead) the humble. Those who eagerly look to Jesus and are willing to take Him at His Word will have the victory in their lives.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (KJV) – Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Questions for Personal or Group Study

(Please do not mail to CA for grading)

- 1 - Why do some people take years and years to come to the realization that Jesus Christ is Lord?
- 2 - What important step do we need to make to find new power, strength, and healing in our souls?
- 3 - In John's vision, he saw Jesus seated on a white horse. What is the symbolism of the white horse?
- 4 - What was the rider of the white horse called?
See: Revelation 19:11
- 5 - Jesus was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood. What significant name is He called?
See: Revelation 19:13
- 6 - After a battle, it was customary for a triumphant Roman general to parade the evidences of his victory. What were those evidences?
- 7 - Paul also speaks about the *captives* in Christ's triumphal procession. Who were these captives and what were they doing there?
See: II Corinthians 2:14
- 8 - Jesus stands out in sharp contrast to the forces of "*anti-Christ*". What is the sole aim of these forces of anti-Christ?
- 9 - What is the reason behind us accusing God of not caring for us?
- 10 - Who is the leader and source of our faith?